

Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women
Regular Quarterly Meeting
The College of St. Mary
7000 Mercy Road
Mercy Hall Building/Weber Lounge
Omaha, NE

July 12, 2006

Meeting called to order by Chair Duncan at 9:21 a.m.

Commissioner Name	City commissioner is from	Presence
Susan Aguilar	Grand Island	Absent
Jeanne Butler	Kearney	Absent
Judith Beechler	Chadron	Absent
Irene Duncan	York	Present
Bernadette Esposito	Omaha	Excused Absence
Jennifer Gutierrez	Lincoln	Present
Mary Heusman	Eddyville	Present
Anne Hobbs	Denton	Present
Jolanda Junge-Kuzma	Lincoln	Present
Diane Longo	Kearney	Present
Megan Lucas	Bellevue	Present
Teresa Maxwell	Omaha	Present
Kathy McKillip	Lincoln	Present
Barbara McPhillips	Columbus	Excused Absence
Barbara Micek	Fullerton	Present
John Nejad	Omaha	Present
Kandy Pflaster	Cozad	Absent
Betty Reeg	Wayne	Present
Rita Sanders	Bellevue	Present
Jamie Snyder	Columbus	Present
Cathy Williams	Bellevue	Absent
Vicky Wright	Omaha	Present
Lisa Good	Executive Director	Present
Jean Karlen	Foundation President	Present
Liz Hruska	Legislative Council	Present
William Scheideler	Budget Division	Present
Rebecca Nelms	Administrative Assist.	Present

- Call to order at 9:21 a.m.
- Chair Duncan stated that the Commission published notice of this meeting in accordance with section 84-1411 of the Open Meetings Act and that a copy of the notice is available for inspection and upon request
- Commissioner Wright – roll call

- Others Attending:
William Scheideler, Nebraska State DAS Budget Analyst, Lincoln, NE
Liz Hruska, Nebraska State Legislative Fiscal Analyst Lincoln, NE and
Jean Karlen, President Nebraska Women's Foundation, Wayne Nebraska
- Review and approval of the minutes of the previous quarterly meeting
 - Commissioner Reeg made a motion to approve
 - Commissioner Lucas seconded
 - Motion carried by unanimous ayes
- Commissioner Nejad – FY end budget report
 - Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2006
 - It was a good year, even with the funding reduction. The Commission has a surplus
 - The numbers on the budget handout do not reflect the \$30,000 reduction in budget
 - Surplus of \$51,996
 - Operating expenses
 - Variance of \$79,785 (doesn't include \$30,000 reduction)
 - Travel expenses
 - Ended the year with a surplus for commissioner mileage, but not commercial transportation or conference registration
 - Budget expenditures totals
 - Commission spent approximately 60% of the budget
 - New budget year started July 1, 2006
 - Jean Karlen – What is the new percentage if we minus the \$30,000
 - William Scheideler – roughly 75% of the budget was spent
 - William Scheideler – the fiscal staff was on target with the \$30,000 adjustment
 - The Commission carried \$49,000 into this fiscal year
 - Commission has approximately \$252,000 to work with
 - Deficit appropriation bill
 - Legislature/Governor can adjust budget
 - Executive Director Good – when can they do this?
 - William Scheideler – at least we will know the Governor's position by January
 - Stop Overspending Nebraska submitted signatures to Secretary of State
 - Pressure for government to reduce spending
 - Keep spending ambitions modest
 - Flat budget submissions encouraged
 - Budget process starting again
 - Agencies submit budget narrative by July 31, 2006
 - Full budget due September 15, 2006
 - Commissioner Gutierrez – from a public relations standpoint what looks best to the Legislature regarding the budget?
 - William Scheideler – show a frugal use of money and show solid plans that will sell to the Legislature/Governor
 - Chair Duncan – would it be a positive to reiterate the fact that the Commission is just starting up?

- William Scheideler – will always listen to reasonable explanations
 - Vice Chair McKillip – it's like crying over spilt milk. Commissioners need to look at their districts representative and see what that Senator is looking into
- Treasurer Nejad – For Fiscal Year 2005-2007 Executive Director Good will give the update
 - Exec. Dir. Good – the agency will prepare the budget. It allows agency to put into concrete what the committees will do and how they will do it. Commission can prioritize, and get a sense of a mission/goals/focus. Incorporate strategic plan into the budget. Narrative is a broad overview. Government asked us to think outside the box. What would/could we do? There are some dated things in Commission's governing statutes.
- Treasurer Nejad – realizes that the budget is the Finance committee's primary work, but really the input into the budget process is for everyone. Exec. Dir. Good will issue a draft for committee to review
 - Exec. Dir. Good – The narrative is due July 31st, and the final document is due September 15th. Commission has historic ballpark figures on a year-by-year comparison basis, but we are vastly different than previous years.
 - Commissioner Junge-Kuzma – do outline of projects need to be specific?
 - Exec. Dir. Good – yes
- William Scheideler – rates government is charging agencies will go up, costs will go up for general operating expenses
- Exec. Dir. Good – NAPE negotiated a 3% salary increase for employees which was effective July 1, 2006. Commission lease will be signed today and is the same as it was last year. Commission is leasing equipment and that saves costs. Commission should use those costs to outreach to women who don't know what Commission does
 - Chair Duncan – having active people and new commissioners helps
- Commissioner Gutierrez – So there are really two things needed: need to determine action items for 2006-2007, and also need a specific outline for 2007-2009
- Jean Karlen – fundraising by the Commission as seen by the Governor?
 - William Scheideler – Appropriations approves fundraising.
- Jean Karlen – can the Commission raise funds?
 - William Scheideler – Governor has to approve for over \$10,000, but still get fiscal signatures for under \$10,000. Fundraising is different than donations. No State matching requirements
- Commissioner Junge-Kuzma – isn't that why we have the Foundation?
 - William Scheideler – arms length difference between the two organizations
 - Exec. Dir. Good – asked attorney at Attorney General's office about this issue. She said the Commission can't engage in fundraising activities. Other state agencies now have 501(c)(3) organizations to funnel through—for example: Office of Womens Health and the Women's Health Symposium and the Nebraska Treasurer's office for Smart Women Smart Money.

- Commissioner Lucas – The Bellevue Chamber has a foundation. Chamber lends employees to work for foundation. Chamber then bills foundation for use of staff
 - Jean Karlen – the Foundation carried the Commission through de-funding, wondered about how private funding would play into the budget
 - William Scheideler – might find people who would go for idea of private funding
 - Exec. Dir. Good – in the narrative Commission needs to make the case for why government funding is appropriate
 - Vice Chair McKillip – does the Commission have an in-kind donation policy?
 - Exec. Dir. Good – no, we don't
 - Vice Chair McKillip – example: like anything over \$1,000 the Commissioners get together and decide whether to accept it
 - Jean Karlen – Foundation kept track of in kind contributions
 - Chair Duncan – individual commissioners were tracking all of their donations. When budget was removed from the commission as a result, commissioners then felt as if we were punished for being too frugal
 - Ex Officio Snyder – get the money and then spend it. Otherwise they think you don't need it
 - William Scheideler – effective spending
 - Liz Hruska – prioritize the budget spending
 - Commissioner Lucas – did the Foundation or the Commission come first?
 - Jean Karlen – Commission came first and the Foundation was created in the '80s to support the Commission through the first de-funding. The Foundation has no money now.. Commissioners are Foundation's constituents
- Staff reports
 - Admin. Assist. Rebecca Nelms – reported on office duties
 - Basic office work
 - Research work
 - Information requests/referral for assistance
 - Legislative duties
 - Event participation
 - Training
 - Meetings
 - Exec. Dir. Good – would like to have an office manager with NIS training. In the budget, salary should be set aside for an accountant. Frees up Lisa to help with the Communication Committee priorities. Legislators want to hear from Commissioners in their district, not the director of the commission. There are 11 commissioners attending the NACW Convention: Commissioner Guitarrez(sp) is a speaker at the Convention. With Nelms providing research and legislative bill analysis, the commission can be proactive for the first time in years and the commission must position themselves as the ultimate source of factual information for senators determining best policy and alternatives and the effects of policy on women and families.

- Chair Duncan – survey, talked about putting it online. Women Work! has a survey online. There is also a free bulletin board on the Women Work! website
- Exec. Dir. Good – Communications Committee recommends a retreat for Commissioners
- Chair Duncan – survey will give us ammo and info to take to the senators
- Treasurer Nejad – do we have part time staff?
 - Exec. Dir. Good – not right now. We have gone through two accountants since our last meeting.
- Vice Chair McKillip – allow a person to enter on the survey that they would be willing to be re-trained. Collaborate with agencies to do referrals
 - Chair Duncan – we have already started to make the contacts. Deb Holst is the president of Women Work! is a professor at Metro Community College
 - Vice Chair McKillip – Senator Price has a scholarship to pay for nursing. What about putting the surveys at HHS and unemployment?
- Committee reports
 - Communications and Public Relations Committee
 - News release announcing new commissioners to their local paper; news release for events
 - Business cards for commissioners
 - Re-design letterhead
 - Status of Women in Nebraska brochures need revised
 - Packets
 - Mission statement
 - Info out to people
 - Where to leave the stacks of info
 - Water bottles with commission info could be passed out at events
 - Education and Counseling Committee
 - College programs for moms. Tuition funded by corporations who then hire the women to work. Put this in place in the community college system
 - Child care
 - Single mom dorms at schools
 - City of Phoenix funds daycare for \$1 a day. Cheaper for the state rather than the women being on state assistance
 - Employment and Income Security Committee
 - Working collaboratively
 - Equal pay
 - Partner with other agencies
 - Outreach and education
 - Collaborate with Smart Women, Smart Money
 - Partner with UNL Bureau of Sociological Research
 - New senators
 - New senator orientation
 - Present info to new senators
 - Finance Committee
 - Conference call schedule for July 25
 - Budget request – concentrate on this
 - Reflects everyone's input

- Colleges – link to Commission's website
 - Scholarship?
 - Re-entry market
 - Biggest bang for the buck
- Home and Community Committee
 - Reviewed term limited senators. Establish relationship with staff
 - Lowest level where help is needed is where it should go
 - Presentation to go out to community
- Women Under the Law Committee
 - Update the Legal Rights handbook
 - Asking for Spanish translation
 - Actually go to organizations and present handbook
- Women of Distinction Committee (WOD)
 - August 25 ceremony to be held at state capitol second floor rotunda beginning at 1:30 p.m. All commissioners to attend. Reception following at the Ferguson Center from approx. 3-5 p.m.
 - Once WOD selection committee has picked nominees, whole commission has to vote. Respond to this e-mail when it comes out.
- Announcements
 - NACW Convention July 19-22
 - Women Work! retreat July 28 location TBA
 - Women of Distinction August 25th
- Foundation Business
 - Jean Karlen / Pat Funk short introductory oral bios
 - There are 9-12 active Foundation members
 - Historically created to support the Commission
 - Critical difference fund
 - Has been used to pay utilities, rent, attendance at funerals etc.
 - Every year Foundation gets \$1,000 from Judge Lindsay Miller-Lehrman
 - Pins/shirts as fundraising
 - Foundation now affiliated with the Community Foundation
 - The Foundation voted to give the pins/shirts to the Commission
 - Now Foundation has pins back
 - Nominees for new Foundation Director-
 - Janice Price is the new Treasurer
 - Foundation now has \$3,000 and most is for the critical difference fund, And traditionally has sponsored the WOD reception.
 - Pat Moeller nominated self for a leadership role
 - Exec. Dir. Good – almost out of pins
 - Request Foundation order more pins
 - Pat Funk – get pins into women's catalogs
 - Vice Chair McKillip – what about Grow Nebraska catalog?
- Next meeting
 - Was scheduled for October 18th
 - Possible locations
 - Schyler – St. Benedictine

- Platte river state park
 - Aurora – Youth development center
 - Ashland – Swanson Center
 - Cozad – Camp Kamika
- November 3rd – NE Community Improvement Program will be meeting at the Holiday Inn
- Quarterly meeting ended at 1:45 p.m.